

78-1966
OLC # 78-2492
July 3, 1978

Admiral Turner,

I thought you should be aware
of the attached letter which
the President has sent to
Chairman Boland of the House
Permanent Select Committee on
Intelligence.

Sam Hoskinson

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 30, 1978

To Congressman Edward Boland

As you requested in your letter of June 14, I have personally considered your request for PD/NSC-19 and my memorandum to the Attorney General dated February 3, 1977. My Legal Counsel and a member of the NSC Staff have also met with your Staff Director, Chief Counsel, and Associate Counsel to make sure we understand your views and that your staff has the full benefit of our thinking on this subject.

Let me first restate categorically my commitment to provide the intelligence committees of Congress the information they need to fulfill their oversight responsibilities. That is not at issue now and will not be in the future.

At the same time, I am concerned about the precedent that could be set by providing your committee with actual retention copies of classified and sensitive directives which I give to elements of the Executive Branch.

While I certainly respect your right to know what I have done in the intelligence area, I must have the right to decide how such information should be conveyed to the Congress and the American people. If this were not the case, serious precedents would be established. For instance, I could be compelled to provide Congress with directives for sensitive treaty negotiations even before they are conducted and ready for ratification. Certainly this would be incompatible with my Constitutional responsibilities to conduct foreign policy.

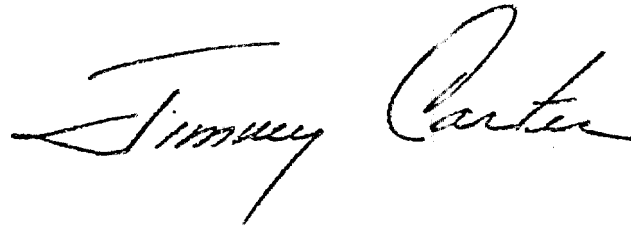
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Fortunately these considerations need not be a bar to your oversight responsibilities. The NSC Staff has been and continues to be prepared to make the documents in question available for the Committee's review either at the White House or, if necessary, to take them up to the Hill for your personal reading. We will also provide any expert testimony you may desire. This is an established practice in other areas and I hope you will feel free to avail yourselves of this opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jimmy Carter". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

The Honorable
Edward P. Boland
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

UNCLASSIFIED	CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET
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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Routing Slip

OLC

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SUSPENSE DATE:

Remarks:

STAT PD/NSC-19 relates to [REDACTED]
 STAT [REDACTED]
 25X1 [REDACTED]

Executive Secretary

6 July 1978

Date